

DC01/ 2137389. 1



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Reference EP35536TS900kap	Application No./Patent No. 03777262.1 - 2302 / 1588793 PCT/JP0315555
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### Communication

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the supplementary European search report under Article 153(7) EPC for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

- ☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

### Refund of the search fee

If applicable under Article 9 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





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**SUPPLEMENTARY  
EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

Application Number  
EP 03 77 7262

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
① X ✓	GB 1 087 534 A (KEARNEY & TRECKER CORPORATION) 18 October 1967 (1967-10-18) * page 5, lines 18-76; figure 2 *	1	INV. B23K26/04 B28D5/00 B23K26/40 B23K26/14
A		2,3	
② Y ✓	US 4 861 964 A (H. SINOHARA) 29 August 1989 (1989-08-29) * column 2, lines 23-43; figure 1 *	1	
A		2,3	
③ Y ✓	JP 08 099187 A (MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP) 16 April 1996 (1996-04-16) * abstract; figures *	1	
④ A ✓	JP 07 185862 A (NIPPON KOGAKU KK) 25 July 1995 (1995-07-25) * abstract; figures *	1-3	
⑤ A ✓	EP 1 110 661 A (CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA) 27 June 2001 (2001-06-27) * paragraphs [0006], [0024] - [0026]; figure 1 *	1-4	
<p>The supplementary search report has been based on the last set of claims valid and available at the start of the search.</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		28 July 2008	Jeggy, Thierry
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p>			
<p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &amp;: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			